

## LACDMH CO-SPONSORS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) co-sponsored the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health from Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at the University of Southern California (USC) Ronald Tutor Campus Center. Supported by Supervisors Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas (Second District), the conference was approved by the LA County Board of Supervisors to highlight Los Angeles as a leader in new and innovative ideas for social work and health care.

At the conference's gala dinner, held on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, Metta World Peace of the Los Angeles Lakers was the guest of honor and featured speaker as well LACDMH Director Marvin Southard, D.S.W. Earlier that day, Dr. Southard spoke in the *Health Care Reform and Behavioral Health Service Integration* symposia at the conference.

Working alongside the USC School of Social Work, LACDMH joined the Departments of Health Services, Public Health and Children and Family Services in the five-day event to discuss initiatives underway in the County in preparation for the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2014. During the conference, themed *Pathways to Client-Centered Care Research to Practice: Completing the Circle*, the County also shared its latest developments in social work.

This was the first time the International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health was held in the United States. It was initially launched in Israel in 1995. With 800+ participants from all over the world, this year's conference examined and explored ground-breaking research and innovative practices in social work, including integrated services, veterans care, diversity, homelessness, de-stigmatization and health equity.